

Kanagawa-ken Employee Saves Abandoned Dogs

Sachiko Asai, 34, a Kanagawa prefectural government employee, has become a champion of abandoned dogs.

Last year, 269,987 abandoned dogs were caught by health departments nationwide. Most of them were "put to sleep."

But, thanks to Asai's effort, Kanagawa-ken has started a unique



Asai

program that house-breaks and neuters abandoned dogs, and then donates them to welfare facilities. So far this year, three dogs have graduated from the program. Asai, chief of the prefecture's environmental hygiene section,

picked the three dogs that seemed calmer than other dogs. "Not only do the dogs get a home, but the dogs provide companionship to elderly people," she said.

The reaction from the elderly people has been great, Asai said. The three dogs are getting spoiled rotten, and she now worries that they might die from overeating.

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